

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 31-35 and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,602,928 to *Eriksson et al.*, and claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Eriksson* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,454 to *Shreve et al.*

Independent claim 31 of the subject application is directed to a handfree-set for mounting on the safety belt of an automotive vehicle comprising a microphone, the microphone provided at the side of the microphone facing the belt with contacts for contacting counter-contacts which are provided on the belt and connected to conducting filaments which are woven into the belt and are designed as connecting conductors in the form of metal filaments or strands which lead from the counter-contacts to an electronic circuit, and fastening plates arranged at both sides of the belt and connected to one another through an opening in the belt in a non-rotational manner with respect to the belt, the counter-contacts being mounted on the fastening plate at the microphone side and connected through said fastening plate to said conducting filaments.

Eriksson is directed to a multi-channel communication system. *Eriksson* discloses an error microphone 208 which is either embedded in mesh belt 210 or mounted thereto by a sound transmissive layer or tape member 211. See Col. 6, lines 6-13 and Figs. 4-5 of *Eriksson*.

However, *Eriksson* fails to disclose fastening plates arranged at both sides of the belt and connected to one another through an opening in the belt in a non-rotational manner with

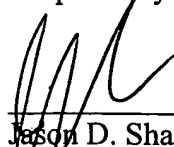
respect to the belt, the counter-contacts being mounted on the fastening plate at the microphone side and connected through said fastening plate to said conducting filaments as claimed by the applicant. As noted above, *Eriksson* only discloses that the microphone is either embedded in the belt or mounted thereto by a sound transmissive layer or tape member. *Eriksson* fails to disclose, teach or suggest fastening plates arranged at both sides of the belt as claimed by the applicant. Further, *Eriksson* fails to disclose connecting such fastening plates to one another through an opening in the belt in a non-rotational manner with respect to the belt. Additionally, *Eriksson* fails to disclose counter-contacts mounted on one of the fastening plates and connected through the fastening plate to the conducting filaments.

Accordingly, *Eriksson* fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 31 of the subject application. Further, *Shreve* also fails to disclose the aforementioned features of claim 31. Therefore, independent claim 31 and its respective dependent claims are patentable over *Eriksson*, either alone or in combination with *Shreve*.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason D. Shanske
Reg. No. 43,915